

Yellow Fever

What is yellow fever?

Yellow fever is a tropical disease that is spread to humans by infected mosquitoes.

How common is yellow fever?

Yellow fever virus is only found in parts of South America and Africa.

How is yellow fever spread?

Yellow fever is spread from the bite of an infected female mosquito. The mosquito injects the yellow fever virus into the bite.

What are the symptoms of yellow fever?

The majority of people infected with yellow fever virus have no illness or only mild illness. Symptoms start 3 to 6 days after exposure. Cases of yellow fever range from mild to severe. Initial symptoms include fever, headache, vomiting, backache, and muscle aches. As the disease progresses in some people, the infection can lead to shock, bleeding, and kidney and liver failure. Jaundice, a yellowing of the skin and the whites of the eyes, occurs as the virus attacks the liver.

Are there complications from yellow fever?

Severe yellow fever infections can be fatal.

What is the treatment for yellow fever?

There is no specific treatment for yellow fever. Many yellow fever patients require hospitalization for supportive care and close observation. People infected with yellow fever should rest and drink plenty of fluids. They should be kept from mosquitoes to protect others. Most people get better after a long recovery period.

How can yellow fever be prevented?

A person traveling to areas where yellow fever exists should receive the vaccine. Check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website for information where yellow fever is found (<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>). International regulations require proof of yellow fever vaccination for travel to and from certain countries. People who get vaccinated should be given an International Certification of Vaccination.

People should also take precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites, such as wearing long-sleeved clothing and long pants, using insect repellent on clothing, skin, and in living areas, and using a bednet when sleeping. Mosquitoes that spread yellow fever usually bite during the day, especially at dusk and dawn.

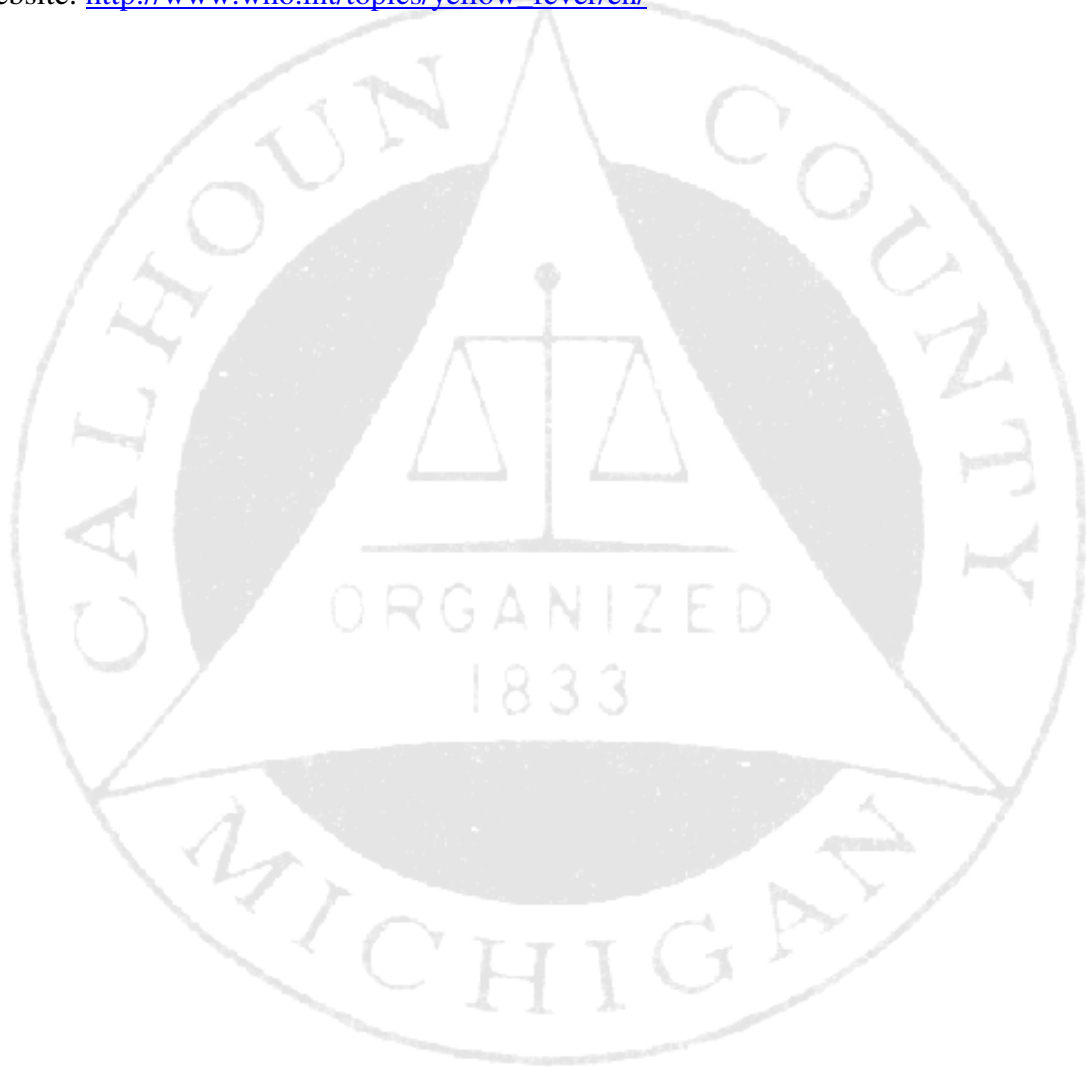
How do I get more information on yellow fever?

Calhoun County Public Health Department
Phone: (269) 969-6383

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/yellowfever/>

World Health Organization
Website: http://www.who.int/topics/yellow_fever/en/

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This fact sheet is meant to provide general health information and is not intended to be medical advice or otherwise take the place of your doctor's orders or to diagnose your specific health problems. Check with your doctor if you have any questions or concerns about your health.

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